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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 8 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as the representative of the Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), I have the honour to forward to you a communiqué issued at Gaborone on 28 June 1996 by the Summit of Heads of State or Government of SADC (see annex). The Summit launched an SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

It is requested that the communiqué be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10 and 97 (b).

(Signed) Legwaila J. M. J. LEGWAILA
Ambassador
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ANNEX

Communiqué issued by the Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community at Gaborone on 28 June 1996

1. The Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met at Gaborone, the Republic of Botswana, on 28 June 1996, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, Sir Ketumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana, to launch the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

2. Delegations of member States were led by the following:

Botswana:	H.E. President Ketumile Masire
Malawi:	H.E. President Bakili Muluzi
Mozambique:	H.E. President Joaquim Chissano
Namibia:	H.E. President Sam Nujoma
South Africa:	H.E. President Nelson Mandela
Zimbabwe:	H.E. President Robert Mugabe
Lesotho:	Hon. P. Mosisili, Deputy Prime Minister
Mauritius:	Hon. Paul Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation
United Republic of Tanzania:	Hon. Jakaya Kikwete, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Zambia:	Hon. Lt. General C. S. Tembo, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Swaziland:	Hon. A. V. Khoza, Minister of Foreign Affairs

3. The Summit recalled that the Heads of State or Government at their meeting in May 1996 endorsed the recommendations of SADC Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, proposing the establishment of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

4. The Summit reaffirmed that the SADC Organ constituted an appropriate institutional framework by which SADC countries would coordinate their policies and activities in the areas of politics, defence and security. The Summit, therefore, agreed as follows:

4.1 Principles

As, inter alia, set out in article 4 of the SADC Treaty, the following shall be the guiding principles for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security:

(a) Sovereign equality of all member States;

(b) Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable right to independent existence;

(c) Achievement of solidarity, peace and security in the region;

(d) Observance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

(e) Promotion of economic development in the SADC region in order to achieve for all member States, equity, balance and mutual benefit;

(f) Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation and arbitration;

(g) Military intervention of whatever nature shall be decided upon only after all possible political remedies have been exhausted in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the Charter of the United Nations.

4.2 The objectives of the Organ

4.2.1 The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security shall work to the following objectives, namely to:

(a) Protect the people and safeguard the development of the region against instability arising from the breakdown of law and order, inter-State conflict and external aggression;

(b) Promote political cooperation among member States and the evolution of common political value systems and institutions;

(c) Develop a common foreign policy in areas of mutual concern and interest, and to lobby as a region, on issues of common interest at international forums;

(d) Cooperate fully in regional security and defence through conflict prevention, management and resolution;

(e) Mediate in inter-State and intra-State disputes and conflicts;

(f) Use preventative diplomacy to pre-empt conflict in the region, both within and between States, through an early warning system;

(g) Where conflict does occur, to seek to end this as quickly as possible through diplomatic means. Only where such means fail would the Organ recommend that the Summit should consider punitive measures. These responses would be agreed in a protocol on peace, security and conflict resolution;

(h) Promote and enhance the development of democratic institutions and practices within member States, and to encourage the observance of universal human rights as provided for in the charters and conventions of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations;

(i) Promote peacemaking and peace-keeping in order to achieve sustainable peace and security;

(j) Give political support to the organs and institutions of SADC;

(k) Promote the political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions of security;

(l) Develop a collective security capacity and conclude a mutual defence pact for responding to external threats, and a regional peace-keeping capacity within national armies that could be called upon within the region, or elsewhere on the continent;

(m) Develop close cooperation between the police and security services of the region, with a view to addressing cross-border crime, as well as promoting a community-based approach on matters of security;

(n) Encourage and monitor the ratification of United Nations, Organization of African Unity and other international conventions and treaties on arms control and disarmament, human rights and peaceful relations between States;

(o) Coordinate the participation of member States in international and regional peace-keeping operations;

(p) Address extraregional conflicts that impact on peace and security in southern Africa.

4.3 Institutional framework

4.3.1 The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security shall operate at the summit level and shall function independently of other SADC structures. The Organ shall also operate at ministerial and technical levels. The chairmanship of the Organ shall rotate on an annual and on a troika basis.

4.3.2 The Summit elected His Excellency, President Mugabe, as the Chairman of the Organ. The Chairman of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security thanked the Summit for having elected Zimbabwe to chair the Organ. He assured the Summit that he would work closely with all member States and consult on all issues pertaining to the work of the Organ.

4.3.3 The Summit also agreed that the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee shall be one of the institutions of the Organ. The Organ may establish other structures as the need arises.

5. Furthermore, the Summit reviewed the political and security situation in the region and noted efforts by SADC Governments to consolidate democracy, peace and stability within their countries. In that regard the Summit was briefed on current developments in Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.